

Yukiko Takita

Serial No.: 09/816,139

Response to Office Action dated August 10, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A content distribution system comprising at least one content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing distributed content and a content distribution apparatus distributing said content, wherein

said content distribution apparatus distributes a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously, and said content reception apparatus is unable to reproduce said content while said content reception apparatus is unable to receive said continuation signal.

Claim 2 (Original): A content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing content, wherein

said content reception apparatus is unable to reproduce said received content while said content reception apparatus is unable to receive a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously.

Claim 3 (Original): The content reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said received content is reproduced according to reproduction procedure information indicating a procedure for reproducing said content.

Claim 4 (Original): The content reception apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reproduction procedure information is received together with said content.

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Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The content reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said continuation signal can be received only within a predetermined area.

Claim 6 (Original): The content reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said content reception apparatus comprises information presentation means for receiving and presenting content-specifying information specifying respective types of said content, and

said content which is designated based on said content-specifying information presented by said information presentation means is requested and received.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The content reception apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, when the number of said contents which can be distributed is predetermined for each of said types, said content-specifying information is updated based on a type of said content received by said content reception apparatus.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The content reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said content reception apparatus further comprises means for deleting ~~returning~~ said received content and for sending a signal regarding the deleting to a distributor.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The content reception apparatus according to claim 8, wherein ~~said~~ content-specifying information is updated based on a type of said content deleted ~~returned~~ by said content reception apparatus ~~to said distributor~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A content distribution apparatus comprising:
content distribution means for distributing content; and
continuation signal distribution means for distributing a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver which receives said distributed

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content to enable ~~for enabling~~ said received content to be reproduced continuously by said a receiver ~~of said distributed content~~.

Claim 11 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said content distribution apparatus further comprises means for managing the number of said distributed contents.

Claim 12 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said content distribution apparatus distributes reproduction procedure information indicating a procedure for reproducing said content.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said continuation signal is distributed only within a predetermined area.

Claim 14 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said continuation signal is distributed by means of broadcasting.

Claim 15 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said content is distributed by means of broadcasting.

Claim 16 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein, when said content distribution apparatus receives an acquisition request for acquiring said content as desired, said content distribution apparatus distributes said desired content to a source of said request.

Claim 17 (Original): A content reception method comprising the steps of:
receiving content; and
reproducing said content received in said receiving step, wherein

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reproduction of said received content is impossible in said content reproducing step while reception of a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously is impossible.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A content distribution method comprising the steps of:

distributing content; and

distributing a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver which receives said distributed content to enable ~~for enabling~~ said received content to be reproduced continuously by said ~~a receiver of said distributed content~~.

Claim 19 (Original): A machine-readable recording medium having a content reception program recorded thereon for a computer to execute a content reception method for receiving content, wherein

said content reception method includes the steps of

receiving said content and

reproducing said content received in said receiving step, and

reproduction of said received content is impossible in said content reproducing step while reception of a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously is impossible.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A machine-readable recording medium having a content distribution program recorded thereon for a computer to execute a content distribution method for distributing content, wherein

said content distribution method includes the steps of

distributing said content and

distributing a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver of said content distributed in said distributing step to enable ~~for enabling~~ said content to be reproduced continuously by said ~~a receiver of said content distributed in said distributing step~~.

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Claim 21 (Original): A program product for a computer to execute a content reception method for receiving content, wherein
said content reception method includes the steps of
receiving said content and
reproducing said content received in said receiving step, and
reproduction of said received content is impossible in said content reproducing step while reception of a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously is impossible.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A program product for a computer to execute a content distribution method for distributing content, wherein
said content distribution method includes the steps of
distributing said content and
distributing a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver of said content distributed in said distributing step to enable ~~for enabling~~ said content to be reproduced continuously by said ~~a receiver of said content distributed in said distributing step.~~

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A content distribution system comprising at least one content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing distributed content and a content distribution apparatus distributing said content, wherein
said content distribution apparatus distributes a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously, and said content reception apparatus can reproduce said content only while said content reception apparatus can receive said continuation signal.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing content, wherein

said content reception apparatus can reproduce said received content only while said content reception apparatus can receive a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously.

Claim 25 (New): A content distribution method comprising:
distributing content; and
distributing a refresh signal within a specified area so a receiver within the specified area can receive the refresh signal and a receiver outside the specified area cannot receive the refresh signal,
wherein a receiver must at least periodically receive the refresh signal in order to reproduce the content it receives.

Claim 26 (New): The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
distributing a content reproduction application usable by a receiver for reproducing the distributed content.

Claim 27 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein the refresh signal is distributed periodically.

Claim 28 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein the content and the refresh signal are distributed by broadcasting.

Claim 29 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein the content and the refresh signal are distributed wirelessly.

Claim 30 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein the specified area within which the refresh signal is distributed is an airplane.

Claim 31 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein the specified area within which the refresh signal is distributed is a room.

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Claim 32 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein content is distributed to a particular receiver in response to a request therefrom.

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 25, wherein the distributed content comprises a plurality of content types and each content type has an associated number specifying the maximum number of receivers to which that content type can be distributed at any one time.

Claim 34 (New): A storage device storing instructions executable by a processing system of a content distribution apparatus to perform the method of claim 25.

Claim 35 (New): A content distribution apparatus for distributing content and for distributing a refresh signal according to the method of claim 25.

Claim 36 (New): A content reproduction method comprising:
receiving content;
receiving a refresh signal;
setting a timer based on the refresh signal;
reproducing the received content for output to a user only during a time period specified by the timer.

Claim 37 (New): The method according to claim 36, further comprising:
storing the received content in a storage device; and
deleting the received content from the storage device after the time period specified by the timer is over.

Claim 38 (New): A storage device storing instructions executable by a processing system of a receiver to perform the method of claim 36.

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Claim 39 (New): A receiver configured to perform the content reproduction method according to claim 36.

Claim 40 (New): A portable receiver configured to perform the content reproduction method according to claim 36.

Claim 41 (New): A content distribution method comprising:
distributing content, wherein the distributed content comprises a plurality of content types and each content type has an associated number specifying the maximum number of receivers to which that content type can be distributed at any one time;
maintaining a content distribution record indicative of the number of receivers to which each type of content is distributed;
distributing a refresh signal within a specified area so a receiver within the specified area can receive the refresh signal and a receiver outside the specified area cannot receive the refresh signal, wherein the refresh signal must be received at least periodically by a receiver in order for that receiver to reproduce the distributed content;
and
updating the content distribution record based on data received from the receivers.